

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/052077

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| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER | | | |
| IPC 7 G11B7/09 G11B21/10 G11B5/55 G11B5/596 | | | |
| <p>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p> | | | |
| B. FIELDS SEARCHED | | | |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) | | | |
| IPC 7 G11B | | | |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched | | | |
| Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) | | | |
| EPO-Internal | | | |
| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. | |
| X | US 5 367 513 A (BATES KEITH A ET AL) 22 November 1994 (1994-11-22) the whole document | 1-18 | |
| A | US 4 722 079 A (MATSUMOTO KEIICHI) 26 January 1988 (1988-01-26) cited in the application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex. | |
| <p>* Special categories of cited documents :</p> <p>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>*E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date</p> <p>*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> | | | |
| <p>*T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>*&* document member of the same patent family</p> | | | |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search | | Date of mailing of the international search report | |
| 13 January 2005 | | 20/01/2005 | |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA | | Authorized officer | |
| European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | | Benfield, A | |

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Information on patent family members

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| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|------------------|---|--|--|
| US 5367513 | A 22-11-1994 | NONE | | |
| US 4722079 | A 26-01-1988 | JP 1805869 C JP 5017610 B JP 61039940 A | | 26-11-1993 09-03-1993 26-02-1986 |